(d) 1262 MARR Telephones in Bihar are disconnected due to non payment of dues. The following steps have been taken to restore/reinstall them :—

(i) The concerned officers/officials have been asked to contact public telephone holders for making the payment of outstanding dues.

(ii) It is proposed to shift the Public Telephones to new locations as per rules if no payment is received inspite of best efforts.

Pager Facilities to Group 'C' and 'D' Employees in Dehli and Mumbai

†3883. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Since when Group 'C' and 'D' employees had been provided pagers in Delhi and Mumbai and what is the number of such employees;

(b) the details of the payment made so far or being made per month to the company, employee-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that pagers of only around five per cent employees are in working condition while the rest of them are either out of order or for one reason or the other are kept at homes; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop the use of pagers and the payments being made to the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The pagers are provided to maintenance staff for improving the efficiency of fault rectification. In Delhi, 3986 Group 'C' and 'D' employees have been provided pagers since November, 1999 and in Mumbai, 1809 employees have been provided since August, 1999.

(b) In Delhi, Rs. 1,83,73,500/- has been paid including advance since November, 1999. Monthly charge per pager is Rs. 150/-. In Mumbai, the pager service is provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and no payment is involved.

(c) No, Sir. Almost all the pagers are in working condition. In case of any defect, action is taken to rectify the same immediately.

(d) The efficiency of the staff in fault rectification has improved after providing pager to them. Hence, there is no reason for stopping the use of pagers.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.